111. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of drinking water in the entire mines areas in Keonjhar district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons led to the so much scarcity of drinking water in those mines areas; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the potable drinking water supply in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) No report has been received by the Ministry in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Parameters for declaration of rural areas

112. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the broad parameters for declaring, identifying on area as a rural area and the basis of granting Central assistance for development of a rural area in the country including modus operandi/ procedure of disbursement of assistance;

(b) the details of criteria involved for participation of Non-Government Organisations in development of rural areas and the manner in which their performance is appraised; and

(c) the percentage of total area of the State of Karnataka under rural area and the details of Central assistance extended to the State in the last three years including the number of NGOs at present operating in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Urban areas are declared by the State Government/ Local bodies depending upon the population size, basic facilities provided etc. The rest of the area remains rural area.

(b) Mainly Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) provides financial assistance to voluntary Organisations to take up developmental projects in rural areas based on certain criteria like registeration under Socieities Registration Act, 1860 or a state amendment thereof, the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Religious Charitable Institutions Registration Act, 1920, maintenance of bank account for last 3 years etc.

The projects submitted by Voluntary Organisations are appraised before sanction. On sanction of the project, funds are released in stages based on the progress report and mid terms evaluation of the project. Mid term evaluations are carried out once or more depending upon the size and nature of the project. On completion of the project, documents such as completion report, audited statement of accounts, utilisation certificate, etc. are obtained and later post evaluation is conducted to study the impact of the programme on a project to basis.

(c) During the last 3 years, CAPART has assisted around 121 Karnataka State based Voluntary organisations to take up 137 projects involving a total assistance of Rs. 5.6 crores.

The amount of central assistance provided to the State of Karnataka—under major schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Programme	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
IRDP	2506.29	2883.11	1786.96
JRY	18989.61	19088.77	8873.18
EAS	6550.00	10970.00	11560.00
IAY	—	—	2978.15

The information :r percentage of total area of States including the State of Karnataka under rural areas is not maintained by the Ministry.

Funds provided for rural water supply programme in Maharashtra

113. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to Maharashtra for rural water supply programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and funds earmarked for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) how many habitations were provided with safe drinking water facilities in the State during Eighth Plan period;

(c) the target for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) An amount of Rs. 307.496 crore was provided to Maharashtra under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 106.02 crore has been allocated for 1997-98. The outlay for the remaining four years of the Ninth Five Year Plan has not been decided.

(b) 21930 villages/habitations were provided with safe drinking water facilities in the state during the Eighth Plan period.

(c) The target for the Ninth Five Year Plan is to cover 173 'Not Covered' and 38330 'Partially Covered' habitations in the State.

(d) The targets are proposed to be achieved under the ARWSP, Basic Minimum Services and the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

Identification of potential ground water zones in Gujarat

114. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some potential ground water zones have been identified in the 19 districts of Gujarat in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to utilise the ground water potential in these districts of the State to provide safe drinking water to the rural populace?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The significant findings of surveys and exploration of ground water carried out by the Central Ground Water Board, in Gujarat State are as under:—

(i) Delineation of potential deep fresh water aquifer system in Tertiary Sandstones suitable for development by deep tubewells in the districts of Kutch, Rajkot, Sabarkantha and potential fresh water zones in Linestone in Saurashtra Coast underlain by saline water environment.

(ii) Providing productive deep fresh water aquifer system in alluvial formations in the depth range of 200 to 500 meter below ground level, capable of sustained development by deep tubewells in the districts of Central Gujarat Saurashtra and coastal districts.